REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request that the foregoing amendments be entered prior to a substantive examination of the application. It is respectfully submitted that the subject application has been amended to help facilitate examination.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION I certify that this Preliminary Amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class mail under 37 C.F.R. § 1.8, addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated below. transmitted via facsimile under 37 C.F.R. § 1.8 on the date indicated below. deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10, addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated below. Express Mail Label No.: Signature

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April 6, 2006

Date